

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CARACA 14661 211356Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W  
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O 211337Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6042

S E C R E T CARACAS 14661

EXDIS

EO 11652 XGDS-1 AND 2  
TAGS: PFOR PINS VE  
SUBJ: BOSCH INTERROGATION

REF: STATE 303401

1. LOCAL PRESS THIS MORNING FEATURES LOS ANGELES TIMES STORY STATING THAT US INVESTIGATORS "HAVE RECEIVED VENEZUELAN GOVT AUTHORIZATION TO INTERROGATE ORLANDO BOSCH" ON THE LETELIER CASE. THE STORY GOES ON TO QUOTE THE TIMES AS SAYING THAT AN FBI AGENT AND A US ATTORNEY WILL COME TO CARACAS NEXT MONTH "TO INTERROGATE BOSCH".

2. THIS IS UNFORTUNATE. IT IS FIRST TECHNICALLY UNTRUE AND SECONDLY IT IS PRECISELY WHAT THE GOV HAD HOPED TO AVOID. IT MAY INFLUENCE THE COURT'S RESPON TO OUR UNUSUAL REQUEST THAT PROPPER AND "AN ASSISTANT" BE PRESENT AT THE COURT'S INTERROGATION. AS YOU KNOW, THE IDEA THAT THE FBI WOULD INTERROGATE BOSCH IS CONSIDERED AN EXTREMELY SENSITIVE MATTER BY THE GOV (SEE CARACAS 13581). TH GOV HAD ALSO BEEN NERVOUS THAT PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH AN INTERROGATION WOULD BE USED BY BOSCH'S DEFENSE ATTORNEYS TO IMPUGN THE GOVT'S CASE ON THE  
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SECRET

PAGE 02 CARACA 14661 211356Z

CUBANA INCIDENT.

3. I HAVE JUST RECEIVED THE LETTERS ROGATORY AND THEY WILL BE PRESENTED TODAY. I HAD A PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE WITH THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF REFTEL. HE WAS VERY LEERY ABOUT THE

POINT OF PROPPER'S PRESENCE AT THE INTERROGATION, POINTED TO ITS UNUSUAL NATURE, AND ENDED UP BY SAYING THAT IT WOULD BE UP TO THE COURT TO DECIDE. II THINK IT NOT AT ALL A FORGONE CONCLUSION THAT THE COURT WILL GRANT THIS PARTICULAR REQUEST AND I THEREFORE REGRET VERY MUCH THE PUBLICITY THAT HAS NOW OCCURRED.

4. WE WILL VERY LIKELY BE QUERIED ON THIS STORY. SINCE I CANNOT SEE ANY VIRTUE TO ANYTHING BUT ADMITTING THE TRUTH, WE PROPOSE, SUBJECT TO THE DEPT'S APPROVAL, TO SAY, IF ASKED, THE FOLLOWING, AND I SHALL ALSO CHECK THIS OUT TO SEE IF THE GOV HAS ANY OBJECTION: "WHAT HAS HAPPENED IS THAT QUESTIONS WHICH THE US INVESTIGATING AUTHORITIES DESIRE TO PUT TO BOSCH REGARDING THE LETELIER CASE ARE BEING FORWARDED BY THE CUSTOMARY "LETTERS ROGATORY" PROCEDURE. THIS CONSISTS OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS FORWARDED BY A US COURT TO THE COMPETENT VENEZUELAN COURT. THE QUESTIONS ARE THEN PUT BY THE VENEZUELAN COURT TO THE PERSONS INTERROGATED. THE LETTERS ROGARTOY WILL, WE UNDERSTAND, ALSO CONTAIN A REQUEST THAT THE ASSISTANT US ATTORNEY INVESTIGATING THE CASE BE PRESENT WHEN THE VENEZUELAN CORT ASKS THE QUESTIONS. IT WILL BE UP TO THE VENEZUELAN COURT TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO PERMIT THE PRESENCE OF THE US OFFICIALS AT THAT TIME. AS OF THIS MOMENT THE LETTERS ROGATORY HAVE NOT YET BEEN FORWARDED TO THE VENEZUELAN AUTHORITIES AND PERMISSION FOR US OFFICIALS TO BE PRESENT AT THE INTERROGATION HAS  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 CARACA 14661 211356Z

NOT RPT NOT BEEN GIVEN AS YET."  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, DEATHS, POLICE INVESTIGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 76 STATE 303401  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BOSCH INTERROGATION  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, VE, US, (LETELIER, ORLANDO), (BOSCH, ORLANDO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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